

**Structural Pest Control Advisory Committee
Self-Assessment Questionnaire
Calendar Year 2020**

The Structural Pest Control Advisory Committee has the responsibility to:

- a. gather and provide information to the Commissioner of Agriculture regarding the practice of structural pest control in order to assist the Commissioner of Agriculture and the department in providing excellent customer service to the public and the structural pest control industry;
- b. enhance educational and professional standards of license holders; and
- c. protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

1. In reviewing the committee's body of work for 2020, what do you feel were the major accomplishments of the committee?

- The committee seemed to adjust really well from our in person meetings to virtual committee meetings, due to the Pandemic. (Looks like this will be the NORM!)
- Looking at increasing the minimum insurance requirements to hold a Structural Business License and Operate in the state. (This has not been looked at and evaluated in many years.) Began discussing this issue.
- Started looking at and discussing the industry providing disinfectant services during the pandemic.
- Cracking down on PC businesses operating without Insurance.
- The possible change in the insurance requirements to \$500,000 for the pest control companies is a great start.
- The online education and certification program for School IPM Coordinators.
- New WDIR
- Reviewed laws and regs pertaining to the safety of all Texans
- Unlicensed people applying pesticides
- Use of disinfectants and looking at P.C.O.'s following labels with responsibility.

2. In considering your responsibility as a member of the committee, and considering the issues of structural pest control that the committee is tasked for providing input, would you find it beneficial to have additional training focused on a better understanding of the law and regulations or practices pertaining to structural pest control? If yes, what type of training would be beneficial to enhance your understanding?

- Yes, have a more in depth CEU Class on the Laws & Regs, or series of classes to give the pest control industry better understanding, especially as things change, it would help to the industry stay current and in compliance each year.
- I would find it quite beneficial to have a session(s) on Laws & Regs and how the TDA interprets some of the regs. Listening to the industry there seems to be a difference in opinions. Example would be Commodity fume, Apprentice training,

- Better understanding of laws and regs
 - Give the committee a process to create and present a specific item for the Director for Consumer Service Protection
3. What specific types of issues or area of concern related to structural pest control would you like to see addressed going forward?
- I really think we need to focus more on the important issues like adjusting Insurance Requirements, instead spending so much time on what training requirements that are needed for a Home Inspector to do WDI Reports. I really think the Home Inspector needs to go through the same training as somebody going through the training to acquire a Termite Category (WDO) through Structural Pest Control Services, or vice versa! But, in favor of having a WDI Inspection CEU under the Termite Category through Structural Pest Training. (Don't think we need to make another category for this, just add it under the Termite Category under Structural.)
 - Better clarification of fumigation laws.
 - More accountability placed on the CA for non-compliance issues.
 - Not a fan of the WDIR being a separate category because of the Home Inspector Industry.
 - Would like to see a better alignment of the training requirement between the Ag license and the SPC license.
 - Some of the administrative code is very hard to understand – if change needs to be made start the process of a change in the statute.
4. What suggestions do you have on how the committee can or should evaluate its effectiveness?
- Focus on the issues that can be looked at and dealt with in a timely manner, but I know some issues take more discussion and time than others.
 - Would like to see more input from the industry. Maybe at the beginning of each year the committees' accomplishments from the previous year could be sent out to the Texas Pest control industry asking for comments and any concerns.
 - Pay more attention to New Business and Unfinished Business. If it is on the agenda, keep a timeframe for completion, maybe ask someone to take “control” of it and take it to the next step.